



## **CMAQ Project Selection Committee**

**Minutes – Thursday January 4, 2018**

- Committee Members:** Douglas Ferguson, Chair (CMAP), Darwin Burkhart (IEPA via phone), Tony Greep (FTA), Chris Snyder (Counties), Jessica Hector-Hsu (RTA), Keith Privett (CDOT, Christopher Schmidt (IDOT)
- Staff Present:** Jesse Elam, Tom Kotarac, Jen Maddux, Tim McMahon, Gordon Smith, Joe Szabo
- Others Present:** Laura Fedak (via phone), Emily Karry, Steve Mannella, Derek Peebles, Brian Pigeon (via phone), Tom Rickert, Brian Stepp, Mike Sullivan, Dave Tomzik (via phone), Mike Walczak, Michael Weiser

### **1.0 Call to Order**

Mr. Ferguson called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

### **2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements**

Mr. Ferguson announced that there were no agenda changes or announcements.

### **3.0 Approval of Minutes – September 14, 2017**

On a motion by Mr. Snyder and seconded by Mr. Schmidt, the minutes of the November 2, 2017 meeting were approved.

### **4.0 Program Monitoring**

#### **4.1 Project Programming Status Sheets**

Mr. Ferguson reported that the project programming status sheets were included in Committee packets, noting that the sheets only display projects programmed in 2018 to 2020. He stated that staff is in the process of converting the CMAQ tracking system from a standalone database to the online eTIP database and that new full program reports are expected to be available for the Committee's April meeting and that the project listings are publicly available on the eTIP public website.

#### **4.2 Programming Summary and Obligation Goal**

Mr. Ferguson reported that the programming summary and obligation goal was included in Committee packets, noting that so far in FFY 2018 the region has

obligated \$14 million and that \$30-\$40 million is expected to be obligated in early FFY 2018.

#### 4.3 October 2017 Status Updates

Ms. Maddux reported that a memo regarding details of the October 2017 status updates was included in Committee packets, noting that the status updates summary attempted to provide understanding of the relatively low obligation rate in FFY 2017. She reported that all project sponsors reported some delay preventing project accomplishment in 2017. Ms. Maddux stated that the information would be used, along with data from previous update cycles, in consideration of modified program management policies.

Mr. Snyder observed that the low amount of funding delayed due to preliminary engineering aligned with the program development policy that phase 1 engineering must be completed prior to applying for CMAQ funding. He stated that there is little a local agency can do to expedite the land acquisition process and that it isn't easy for local agencies to secure a quick-take process through the state legislature. Mr. Snyder also reported that the state and counties submitted a request to USDOT that engineering done with local funding be considered a "soft match" to federal funding, which is currently prohibited by federal law; if ever approved, the agreement process may be condensed. Mr. Snyder questioned what a delay in design engineering may include if not land acquisition or agreements and suggested that in the next update cycle staff request more specific information.

Mr. Privett stated that when a project receives design engineering and construction funding in the same award cycle, even if programmed in different years, design engineering can delay construction. He noted that a detail to consider in regard to the agreement process is the standard IDOT District 1 process versus the special process for direct emissions reduction projects.

Mr. Privett thanked staff for revising the update process, reducing duplication of effort involved in prior update cycles.

Ms. Hector-Hsu asked how the region's performance compares to other large regions receiving CMAQ funding. Ms. Maddux replied that to her knowledge CMAP's active program management policies are the most involved in comparison to peer MPOs and that staff will research best practices in other regions.

Mr. Rickert asked what is meant by "Internal Coordination" as a reason for delay. Mr. Ferguson replied that it means different things to different agencies but that it intended to mean coordination among different departments of an agency.

Mr. Schmidt asked whether diesel retrofit projects were included in the amount of funding delayed due to the IDOT agreement process. Ms. Maddux confirmed that they were. Mr. Schmidt stated that some of that process is out of IDOT's control. He also stated that IDOT is currently reviewing the FHWA/FTA transfer process in order to streamline projects.

Ms. Maddux acknowledged that future status update requests will need to gain more specific details in order to clarify sticking points in project implementation, noting that reasons for delay are open to the interpretation of each project sponsor.

## 5.0 Project Changes

### 5.1 Des Plaines –Ballard Road from Bender Road to Good Avenue (TIP ID 03-12-0005)

Ms. Maddux reported that Des Plaines requested reinstatement of \$453,000 federal (\$567,000 total) for construction in FFY 2018 and a cost change to fund construction engineering locally. Staff recommended approval of the proposed changes.

On a motion made by Mr. Snyder and seconded by Mr. Privett, the requested reinstatement and cost change was approved.

### 5.2 Bensenville – IL 83 from Bryn Mawr Ave to Foster Ave (TIP ID 08-16-0001)

Ms. Maddux reported that Bensenville requested a transfer of \$32,000 federal (\$40,000 total) from phase 2 engineering in FFY 2018 to construction in FFY 2019. The project ranking did not change and staff recommended approval of the proposed change.

On a motion made by Mr. Schmidt and seconded by Mr. Snyder, the requested transfer was approved.

### 5.3 Bensenville – Railroad Avenue/Metra Station Access Improvements (TIP ID 08-17-0026)

Ms. Maddux reported that Bensenville requested a schedule change to move \$400,000 federal (\$500,000 total) from FFY 2022 to FFY 2018. Staff recommended approval of the proposed change.

Ms. Hector-Hsu stated that this project was a part of RTA's Access to Transit group and she was pleasantly surprised the project was ready for construction already. She asked whether the sponsor had taken all necessary steps with CMAP and IDOT to move forward to construction. Ms. Maddux confirmed that the project is on the April 2018 state letting.

On a motion made by Mr. Privett and seconded by Mr. Snyder, the requested schedule change was approved.

### 5.4 Lake County – Washington Street at CN/Metra Crossing (TIP ID 10-08-0031)

Ms. Maddux reported that Lake County requested a cost increase of \$2,098,900 federal (\$2,623,000 total) for. The project ranking did not change and staff recommended approval of the proposed change.

On a motion made by Mr. Snyder and seconded by Mr. Schmidt, the requested cost increase was approved.

Mr. Snyder stated that a significant cost for local agencies on railroad projects is railroad flagging; it is also considered a “no bid” item and guaranteed to incur change orders.

**5.5 Hanover Park – Hawk Hollow Forest Preserve Trail (TIP ID 08-16-0003)**

Ms. Maddux reported that Hanover Park requested a cost increase of \$30,900 federal (\$38,600 total) for construction. Staff recommended approval of the proposed changes.

On a motion made by Mr. Snyder and seconded by Mr. Privett, the requested cost increase was approved.

**6.0 FAST Act**

Mr. Ferguson reported that staff is working on setting performance targets for the CMAQ program, coordinating with IDOT and partners in northwest Indiana. As reminder to the committee, the region will be required to set targets for peak hour excessive delay, percent of non-SOV travel and on-road mobile source emissions reduced by CMAQ funded projects. Staff will be presenting targets to the committee over the next few meetings and seeking the committee members input. The targets will be published as part of the ON TO 2050 plan.

**7.0 Other Business**

There was no other business.

**8.0 Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

**9.0 Next Meeting**

Mr. Ferguson stated that the next meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2018.

**10.0 Adjournment**

On a motion made by Mr. Schmidt and seconded by Mr. Snyder, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

**CMAQ Project Selection Committee Members:**

____ Darwin Burkhart	____ Mark Pitstick	____ Chris Schmidt
____ Luann Hamilton	____ Jeffery Schielke	____ Chris Snyder
____ Douglas Ferguson, Chair		